

Pali Text Society

JOURNAL

OF THE

PALI TEXT SOCIETY

VOLUME XVIII

EDITED BY

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*Published by*  
THE PALI TEXT SOCIETY  
OXFORD

1993

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ISBN 0 86013 307 9

First published in 1993  
Distributed by Lavis Marketing  
73 Lime Walk  
Oxford OX3 7AD

Printed in Great Britain by Antony Rowe Ltd, Chippenham, Wilts

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## BRAḤ MĀLEYYADEVATTHĒRAVATTHU

### I

In 'L'Origine Cinghalaise du P'raḥ Malay' (*Felicitacion volume of Southeast Asian Studies Presented to H.M. Prince Dhanivat*, Vol. 2, Bangkok, 1965, pp. 329–38), the late Eugène Denis S.J. (1921–86) stated that the École Française d'Extrême-Orient was to publish his 1963 Sorbonne doctoral thesis, which was entitled 'Brah Māleyyadevattheravatthum, Légende bouddhiste du saint therā Māleyyadeva. Texte établi d'après des manuscrits inédits en caractères cambodgiennes, accompagné d'une introduction et d'une traduction, avec une traduction du P'raḥ Malay siamois qui en est dérivé'. Unfortunately this did not happen, and the article remains his only publication on the topic to date. Very few primary sources for the story — better, stories — of Māleyya<sup>1</sup> are yet available in the West, and Denis' thesis has proved elusive to a number of scholars who have tried to find it: even those in Paris, including Denis' Directeur de travaux, André Bareau, seem to have had some difficulty in locating a copy. The Pali Text Society has acquired one through Professor O. von Hinüber, itself taken from a copy in the library of the University of Göttingen. It seemed to us that it would be useful to make available here Denis' text, accompanied by a translation of it into English.<sup>2</sup> The story of Māleyyadeva is known to have been very important in the practice of traditional Thai Buddhism; but the text is also relevant to the matters of linguistic and literary history with which the JPTS is more specifically

<sup>1</sup> The Pali form of the name is spelt variously, as Maliya, Malaya, Māleyya, etc., sometimes with one of the suffixes -mahādeva or -deva; sometimes these suffixes are used alone (as in the text p. 58 below). For brevity I shall use Māleyya.

<sup>2</sup> Permission for the present publication has been given by Denis' surviving sister, Mme Marie-Thérèse Saulnier; we are grateful to Jacqueline Filliozat for contacting Mme Saulnier on our behalf.